

*January 20, 2002*

*Mr. Ken Richardson  
708 Duff Road NE  
Leesburg, VA 20176*

*Ms. Renata Hesse  
Department of Justice  
601 D Street, N.W., Suite 1200  
Washington, D.C. 20530*

*Dear Ms. Hesse:*

*As jobless rates and economic indicators continue to tell consumers that times are getting worse, I think Microsoft's settlement with the federal government could provide a beginning bright light. By settling the case, we could once again see the competitive prosperity of the 90's foster the necessary kick the economy needs to move in a positive direction.*

*The high tech industry has been a driving force for our nation in recent years and if Microsoft's settlement revitalizes competition, than we should welcome this opportunity. This long drawn out case should be resolved once and for all, and the focus should be on lowering the jobless rate, increasing consumer confidence and strengthening our economy.*

*Sincerely,*

*Ken Richardson*